

**ZOO VETERINARIAN***Class Definition*

Under general direction, provides veterinary medical, surgical and preventive health care for a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens.

*Distinguishing Characteristics*

Zoo Veterinarian is a single position class in the Zoo Division of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Reporting to the Zoo Manager, the incumbent provides preventative veterinary care and medical and surgical treatment for a varied animal collection, and provides guidance to zoo personnel in animal hygiene, nutrition, zoonoses, and animal management programs. Duties also include compiling and maintaining veterinary treatment and animal health records and coordinating animal research projects.

*Typical Tasks*

(The incumbent may not be assigned all duties listed, nor do the examples cover all duties which may be assigned.)

Diagnoses and treats ill or injured animals using veterinary medical and surgical techniques; directs zoo personnel in the proper care of sick and injured animals.

Establishes animal diets and proper feeding routines in consultation with the Zoo Manager and other appropriate personnel.

Provides for preventive animal health and neonatal care, including vaccination programs.

Keeps medical records of zoo animals and other necessary administrative records.

Administers immobilization drugs, anesthetics, and medicines according to standard medical practice.

Recommends selection and retention of subordinate personnel; prepares employee performance evaluations.

Performs or arranges for necropsies to determine causes of animal fatalities.

Maintains necessary supplies and equipment for the Zoo veterinary facilities.

Assists with the movement of animals by providing physical exams, health certificates, and immobilization.

Performs laboratory tests on blood tissue and other animal matter to determine the presence of bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemicals which would adversely affect animal health.

Assists in developing designs for exhibits and exhibit remodeling.

Provides emergency veterinary services.

Performs related duties as required.

*Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills*

Thorough knowledge of the habits, physiology, and dietary needs of a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians represented in zoos.

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, procedures, and applied theory of veterinary medicine and surgery.

Knowledge of animal husbandry and reproductive management.

Knowledge of the methods and practices used to control communicable diseases.

Knowledge of federal, state and local regulations pertaining to the humane treatment of animals and the shipping, quarantining, and care of zoo animals.

Knowledge of the principles and practices of effective employee supervision, including selection, training, work evaluation, and discipline.

Ability to diagnose and treat medical and surgical problems in a variety of zoo animals.

Ability to supervise, train, and evaluate the work of subordinate staff.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with City and Zoo employees and the public.

Ability to develop and participate in research programs relating to animal health and behavior.

*Minimum Qualifications*

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in veterinary medicine, and four years of professional experience in the practice of veterinary medicine, including, or supplemented by, two years of clinical zoo veterinary experience.

*Necessary Special Requirements*

A valid license to practice veterinary medicine issued by the California Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine must be acquired within one year of appointment.

Diplomate status with the American College of Zoological Medicine, or the ability to obtain this status, is desirable.

Possession of a valid California Driver\*s License at time of appointment.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Personnel

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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